

Washington's Water Quality Management Plan to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution

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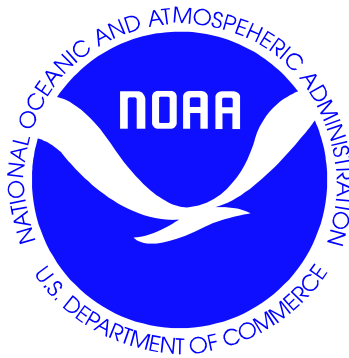
The Nonpoint Plan

This plan has been a cooperative effort between the following agencies and groups:

Department of Agriculture
Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development
Conservation Commission
Washington State University, Cooperative Extension
Department of Ecology
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Health
Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
Parks and Recreation Commission
Puget Sound Action Team
Department of Transportation

These agencies will also be implementing the actions identified in the plan.

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Washington's Nonpoint Source Management Plan

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ABBREVIATIONS FOR AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Short	Long
AGC	Associated General Contractors
CC	Washington State Conservation Commission
CE	Washington State University Cooperative Extension
Cities	Cities of Washington (represented by Association of Washington Cities)
COE	US Army Corp of Engineers
CORE 4 Program	Encouragement of conservation buffers, conservation tillage, nutrient management, and pest and disease management.
Counties	Counties of Washington (represented by Washington Association of Counties)
CRAB	Washington State County Roads Administration Board
DCTED, CTED	Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development
DFW, WDFW	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
DNR	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
DOH, Health	Washington State Department of Health
DOT	Washington State Department of Transportation
ECY	Washington State Department of Ecology
EPA, US EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
ESD	Educational Service District
FSA	Farm Services Agency
GCEE	Washington Governor's Council on Environmental Education
IAC	Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OSPI	Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Parks	Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission
PSAT	Puget Sound Action Team
SRO	Salmon Recovery Office
Tribes	Indian Tribes of Washington
USDA	US Department of Agriculture
USFS	US Forest Service
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
WACD	Washington Association of Conservation Districts
WSDA	Washington State Department of Agriculture
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation

ABBREVIATIONS FOR PROGRAMS, ETC.

Short	Long
AFO, CAFO	Animal Feeding Operation, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CCWF	Centennial Clean Water Fund
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund)
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWAP	President's Clean Water Action Plan
CZARA	Coastal Zone Management Act Reauthorization Amendments
ESA	Endangered Species Act
GMA	Growth Management Act
HCPs	Habitat Conservation Plans
HPAs	Hydraulic Project Approval
JFE	Jobs for the Environment
LLPs	Landowner Landscape Plans
MOA, MOU	Memorandum of Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding
NALMS, WALPA	North American or Washington Lake Protection Association
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	Nonpoint Source (Pollution)
NWMTA	Northwest Marine Trade Association
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
SMA	Shoreline Management Act
SRA	Salmon Recovery Act
TFW	Timber, Fish & Wildlife
TMDLs	Total Maximum Daily Loads
UWA	Unified Watershed Assessment
WPA	Watershed Planning Act
WRAS	Watershed Restoration Action Strategy
WRIA	Water Resource Inventory Area
WSG	Washington Sea Grant Program

Washington's Water Quality Management Plan To Control Nonpoint Sources of Pollution

Executive Summary

Nonpoint pollution is pollution that enters a water body from water-based or land-use activities, including atmospheric deposition; surface water runoff from agricultural lands, urban areas, and forest lands; subsurface or underground sources; and discharges from boats or other marine vessels.

Nonpoint source water pollution is a growing threat to the environment and public health. It's the accumulation of sediment, chemicals, toxics, nutrients, debris and pathogens that rain water and snow melt pick up and carry into the nearest body of water. Sometimes nonpoint pollution can be traced to several sources; sometimes it cannot be traced at all.

Washington has been a leader in addressing NPS pollution for many years. We already have many tools to achieve cleaner water through nonpoint source management. Some are regulatory while the majority are voluntary programs. Watershed efforts have addressed problems in most parts of the state. There are numerous examples of innovative approaches to management and funding.

In spite of all the work accomplished to date, salmon recovery and protection require more urgent efforts to control NPS pollution. Ground water contamination and shellfish downgrades are further indicators that pollution is increasing faster than our efforts to prevent it or clean it up. Development and changing landscapes are significant sources of the emerging problems. Non-urban land uses are shrinking but continue to produce chronic problems.

Though many innovative approaches are available in Washington, several factors limit their success: the high cost of fixing old problems, local land use decisions, the lack of agency coordination and focus, and the lack of information concerning watershed processes and conditions.

The President's Clean Water Action Plan requires each state to update its plan for managing nonpoint pollution in 1999, in order to qualify for grants under the Clean Water Act (CWA) (Section 319). Washington's potential share is about \$3.8 million per year, half of which is typically awarded to local governments and private nonprofit organizations.

This plan also addresses a separate set of federal requirements under the Coastal Zone Management Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (Section 6217). This statutory requirement affects approximately \$2.8 million in federal coastal zone management funds.

The plan is a statewide look at protecting Washington's natural resources from nonpoint pollution. It is a collaborative effort of a wide range of entities. It identifies gaps in

existing programs, sets a strategy for improving those programs, recommends timelines, and outlines methods for determining success.

We have used three approaches to evaluate and plan these efforts:

- Nine “Characteristics of a Successful Nonpoint Program” provided by EPA in 1996 under section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act,
- Fifty-six Management Measures provided in 1992 by EPA and NOAA which describe the minimum elements that coastal states should include in NPS programs, and
- Opinions and ideas of agencies and organizations in the nonpoint arena.

This plan reflects current efforts and creative, practical new ideas from all our partners and interested citizens. The recommendations focus on how we can improve existing efforts by stronger implementation, increased funding, or doing something new.